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The Kite Runner

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Summary:

Amir arrives in Kabul, thanks to the help he has received from Farid, a friend of Rahim. Kabul is nothing like it once was. The land is barren and the buildings are destroyed. They arrive at the orphanage where they believe Sohrab is, but he is nowhere to be found. The orphanage director thinks that he may have been sold for money to the Taliban, in order to keep the orphanage running. He tells Amir that he should look at the Ghazi Stadium.

Soon after, they attend a soccer game at the Ghazi Stadium and arrange a meeting with a Taliban official to talk about Sohrab. They meet in a home in Kabul with a Taliban official. Amir soon realizes that the official is Assef. Sohrab walks out of the back room and Amir wants to take him home. Assef and Amir again have conflict and Assef tries to not allow Amir leave alive. Sohrab grabs a slingshot, points it at Assef and fires it at his eye. The two escape the house, get back into Farid’s truck, and drive away.

Amir wakes up in a hospital in Peshawar and has his friends and family around. Farid gives Amir a note from Rahim that explains that he knows everything that happened between Amir and Hassan. He explains that Baba felt guilty about not being able to openly love Hassan, so he took out his frustration on Amir. When it is time for Amir to leave the hospital, Amir looks for the American parents that we supposed to now care for Sohrab, but Amir soon realizes that there are no American parents.

Amir and Sohrab arrive at their next destination, Islamabad. Amir eventually invites Sohrab to come and live with him and his wife in America. A week later Sohrab decides to come live with Amir in San Francisco. Because of complications however, the adoption is near impossible. There are many loopholes in the system that disallows Sohrab of being adopted and moved to America. When Sohrab finds out that one solution is to stay in an orphanage for two years he breaks down and screams. Amir finds out that if they can get Sohrab into America, they can keep him. Before Amir can tell Sohrab the great news, he finds him bleeding and unconscious in the bathtub.

Sohrab is sent to the hospital immediately and loses much blood. After several hours, a doctor approaches Amir and says that Sohrab will be fine. They move to America and Sohrab sees America for the first time. Amir takes in Sohrab as if his own son. The story closes out in a kite flying scene. Amir, Sohrab, and Soraya are the park one day when they see kites flying. Amir begins flying a kite and invites Sohrab to join him. Soon after, a kite approaches Amir’s kite, upon when Sohrab takes the reins. Sohrab takes down the other kite with ease. This time, Amir becomes the kite runner, fulfilling his long awaited duty.

Analysis:

In this section, many loose ends are tied off, and a point of closure is met. When Sohrab saves Amir’s life by shooting Assef in the eye, Amir realizes that he is forgiven. Amir sees this as the closing point of his life Middle East. The door behind them to the Middle East is now closed. In the last scene of the story, Sohrab takes down the other kite, and Amir is reminded of himself as a child. He is proud of Sohrab, just as Baba was proud of Amir. In the end, when Amir insists on running after the kite for Sohrab, it is considered his payback for all of the hardships that Amir forced Hassan into. By repaying Sohrab, he has repaid Hassan too.

Application:

To relate the story to the prompt of how human characteristics span time and culture is but a simple task. In Amir’s love for Sohrab, it is seen that unconditional love can come from anywhere. Amir attaches himself to Sohrab because he feels the guilt being relieved from him. It is human of him because he is able to truly love again once he has gotten over his false understanding of the guilt that he has carried for his entire life. The human characteristic that has spanned time and culture in this section is that love can come out of the most unusual places when it is least expected. Amir paid his debt to Hassan by loving Sohrab, leading to the peace of mind for Amir. The love that Amir showed was unexpected to Sohrab, but edifying in so many ways to Amir.